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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 1, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 26 totaled an estimated 19.5 billion ton-miles, 10.3 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 39 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 683.7 billion ton-miles carried, up 4.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended September 26 were the highest so far this year. Carloadings totaled 446,367, up 8.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year and 2.2 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 5.6 percent in the East and up 11.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 18 of the 20* major commodity groups increased. Grain increased by 7,053 cars (27.4 percent), while metallic ores showed a gain of 3,417 cars (18.8 percent). Ten of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 19 totaled 106,023 trailers and/or containers, 0.6 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 38 weeks of the year was 3,071,359 trailers and/or containers, up 3.1 percent from 1986.

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*Effective this week, the number of major commodity groups has been reduced from 21 to 20. LCL traffic is now included in "All Other" carloads.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/26/87:

	Loadings in Week ended September 26, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,916	I	7,503	27.4	I	1,234	3.7
Other farm products	4,175	I	895	27.3	I	171	4.3
Metallic ores	21,617	I	3,417	18.8	I	3,477	19.2
Coal	124,711	I	2,905	2.4	I	491	0.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	17,882	I	2,100	13.3	I	328	1.9
Nonmetallic minerals	10,606	I	685	6.9	D	210	1.9
Grain mill products	11,306	I	768	7.3	D	11	0.1
Food and kindred products	11,782	I	681	6.1	D	30	0.3
Primary forest products	11,206	I	524	4.9	I	86	0.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,439	I	305	3.7	D	71	0.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,431	I	153	1.2	D	225	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	27,209	I	2,068	8.2	D	394	1.4
Petroleum products	4,993	I	406	8.9	I	179	3.7
Stone, clay and glass products	11,655	I	499	4.5	D	254	2.1
Coke	5,068	I	1,329	35.5	D	24	0.5
Metals and products	10,073	I	1,760	21.2	I	325	3.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,737	D	918	4.4	I	666	3.5
Waste and scrap materials	9,769	I	1,520	18.4	D	322	3.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,092	D	890	22.4	D	31	1.0
All other carloads	85,700	I	9,365	12.3	I	4,432	5.5
Total Cars Loaded	446,367	I	35,075	8.5	I	9,817	2.2
Corresponding week of 1986	411,292						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (39 weeks)	15,389,062	14,790,616	I 4.0

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
38 Weeks ended September 19	664.2	635.2	I 4.6
Week ended September 26	19.5	17.7	I 10.3
39 Weeks cumulative	683.7	652.9	I 4.7

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